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Introduction

Welcome to the July 2017 edition of Safety Matters.

Through this newsletter our aim is to inform you of health and safety issues that may have an impact on the lift and escalator industry. Safety Matters is also available for download from the LEIA member's website. www.leia.co.uk

Facemasks and Beards

A High profile spat between the unions and employer over the control of risks from exposure to hazardous materials has highlighted the proper fitting of dust masks (respirators) and reminded everyone about the need to ensure that a proper fit is obtained between the face and the mask when wearing respirators.

To ensure the effectiveness of the respiration, the seal around the edge against the skin must be effective. Even 1 day stubble can interfere with the seal and create gaps through which dust and other deleterious materials may pass.

FFP2 & FFP3 and half mask respirators (disposable respirators) use the negative pressure principle whereby breathing in compresses the seal against the skin to reduce the inward leakage of contaminated air. All air drawn through the material of the mask has containments removed or reduced.

The containments pressure of a beard or stubble will not permit the seal against the skin and will allow the inward leakage of contaminated air whenever you breathe in.

If a risk assessment of the exposure to hazardous materials has been carried out and the appropriate control measure determined as the wearing of respirator, the wearer should ensure a good seal between face and mask.

Other respirators are available which do not form a close fit between face and mask but these are not always appropriate for every situation.

Respirator selection is based upon the protection provided by the particular respirator, the needs of the user of the respirator and the business needs.

1. Is the respirator suitable for the hazards encountered? Does it provide enough protection and is it suitable for the job being undertaken?
2. Is the respirator comfortable for the user and does it fit and seal properly?
3. Is the respiration cost effective and is productivity happened by a particular design? Is the respirator used effectively and does it need any regular maintenance?

SITE MANAGER JAILED OVER DEATH OF PASSER-BY

Failure to secure windows led to death and manslaughter sentence

The site manager for a London construction project has been sentenced to a 12-month prison term for manslaughter by gross negligence after a woman walking past a construction site died when three window frames weighing more than half a tonne fell on her in August 2012.

The window frames had been delivered the previous day but could not be fitted immediately due to other delays on site. The frames were left on the pavement overnight, leaning against the building. No efforts were made to secure them and no barrier placed around them. No checks were made on the frames when individual defendants arrived on site the next morning.

Frames toppled by door moved by wind

It is believed a door in the building blew open in the wind, hitting the frames and causing them to topple. A worker inside tried but was unable to restrain the frames. Police officers at the scene were told the frames had been secured to the wall with a ratchet strap. Evidence showed this was not the case.

HSE Inspector Jack Wilby said:

“An obvious risk was not addressed and allowed to continue. Those sentenced today had responsibilities to protect others from their actions. The construction work was not planned, managed or monitored properly.”

The deceased’s parents said following the verdict:

“If construction companies and the people who work for them are not held to account for such high levels of negligence and incompetence then none of us is safe walking the streets next to construction sites. The Health and Safety training being given is totally inadequate, if risk of death to passers-by is ignored.”



Millionaire businessman and foreman convicted for manslaughter over fatal fall

A company director and site foreman have been found guilty of manslaughter after the death of a carpenter who fell through a floor void when the scaffolding board he stepped on snapped.

Millionaire businessman and foreman convicted for manslaughter over fatal fall

The incident, which took place in September 2014, occurred only a year after a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection identified poor work at height standards at the same site, and work was stopped until improvements were made.

The HSE had found numerous openings in the first floor, through which anyone working in the building could have fallen several metres. Training for site workers was also found to be inadequate.

As a scaffolder stepped on a scaffolding board, it snapped and he fell 4.5 m to the ground. He suffered head injuries and a broken neck. He was airlifted to St George's Hospital, Tooting in London where he remained immobile for weeks. He was moved to Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton a month later but his immobility led to him developing deep vein thrombosis and he subsequently died.

The director of a renovation company had made a number of visits to the site and was able to see the unsafe conditions but had failed to act to stop work or remedy them. The site foreman had also let work continue without adopting adequate safety measures.

The foreman had attended a site management training course after the HSE visit in 2013 and had been instructed about working at height and how to carry it out safely. However, despite the training and additional advice from the HSE, standards had slipped over the past year.

The evidence gathered in the investigation showed that both men visited the site regularly and would have seen the conditions, which included work being carried out with voids that someone could fall through. Neither individual did anything to prevent this from happening.

“[The director] completely failed to grasp his personal responsibilities and even went as far as to blame the victim for his own death, despite having previously been advised by the HSE of the measures that needed to be taken on site”.

Both had denied a charge each of gross negligence manslaughter in connection with the scaffolder's death. The director was also found guilty of consenting or conniving in the failure of the company to discharge its duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act while the foreman was found guilty of failing to discharge a duty under the HSW Act.

London Underground (LU) has been fined £500,000 after a maintenance worker was injured at a fall at a disused station.

The worker plunged 9.5m from a scaffold tower while cleaning a former lift shaft at South Kentish Town station, the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) said.

Its investigation found the transport authority failed to properly plan, manage and supervise the work that was being carried out in September 2014.

LU said it acted quickly to investigate the cause and take action.

“Good safety record”

The maintenance worker suffered numerous injuries and spent 10 days in hospital following the fall.

Inspectors found the scaffold was incorrectly assembled and its stability had not been assessed.

Procedures which may have prevented the fall were in place, but were not implemented or followed, it said.

Keith Atkinson, HM Principal Inspector of Railways, said: "London Underground has a good safety record, but this incident highlights why there can be no room for complacency.

Another case highlighting the dangers of work at height this time in a highly regulated and controlled sector.

Let’s all think about: *Procedures which may have prevented the fall were in place, but were not implemented or followed*





Workplace deaths in Great Britain

The Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) newly-published statistics (July 2017) on fatal injuries in UK workplaces reveal that 137 people were killed in the 12 months to the end of March.

The figures indicate that the long-term downward trend of workplace deaths, which have halved over the last 20 years, is levelling off and has been since the beginning of the decade.

It is still however 137 too many – each one a tragedy for the victim and everyone touched by the accident.

Thirty construction workers sustained fatal injuries last year, the lowest number on record for the sector.

Based on the five-year annual average rates, the agriculture and waste and recycling sectors came out worst, with a rate of injury 18 and 15 times higher than the average across all industries respectively.

Older workers (aged 60+) accounted for around a quarter of all workplace deaths in 2016-17, despite the fact this group made up only around 10% of the workforce – so please take note if you are over 60 and your pension is at last in sight!

Last year, 31 workers were killed by moving vehicles, falls from height attributed for 25 deaths, 20 employees were fatally struck by a moving object, and a further ten died after they were trapped by equipment that either collapsed or overturned. Electrocutation accounted for eight deaths, as did contact with moving machinery

Falls and falling objects, Electricity and Moving machinery are the key hazards within this industry and these are covered within the LEIA Safety Charter presentations which are freely available on the LEIA website for anyone to download and view. If you are affected by these issues (and it's unlikely you are not affected – whichever branch of the industry you work in) take some time to go in and take a look at these.

Young People at Work

Now is the season when schools and colleges break up, that we start to see more young people and apprentices starting work for the first time. Although they may be full of enthusiasm for their new life, they are rarely completely rounded in their attitudes and abilities. Many feel they know all the answers.

We need to be careful for these young people as their perception of risk is low; they will take risks, because they have not developed the life skills that we take for granted.

Many will not be completely physically developed, and will struggle with manual handling tasks that would be easy for others.



Young people are more susceptible to peer pressure and do not have the same perception of hazards as more experienced workers. Don't take anything for granted concerning a young person's experience. Don't expect them to behave the same way as you. For the first few days everything will be confusing, but they won't want to admit it for fear of losing face.

Beware of allowing indiscriminate mobile phone and i-pod use; they can be a distraction from the surroundings.

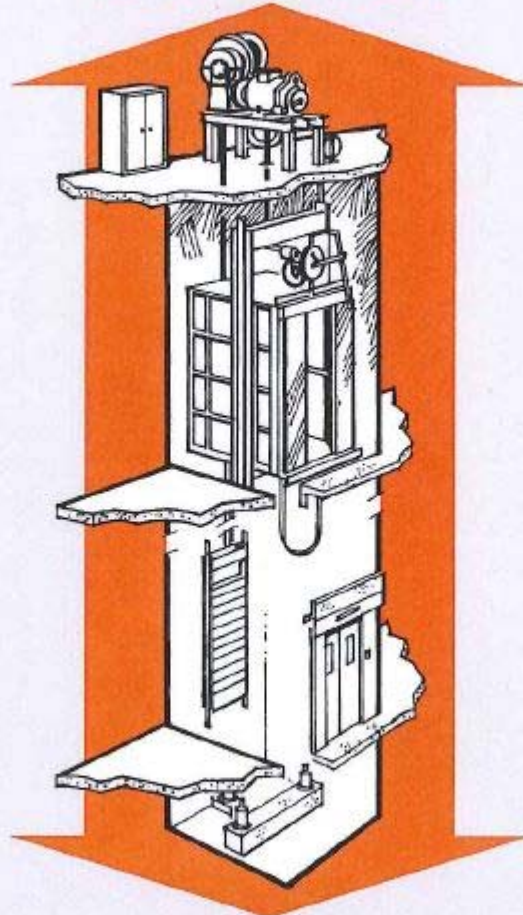
Some sites are specifying a minimum age; it can be as much as 20 years old, so check before you take a young person out.

Be aware that other trades around you may have young people working with them. The other trades may not be as diligent as you.

Watch the video on:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/youngpeople/bsc.htm>

Lift & Escalator SITE SAFETY HANDBOOK



Lift and Escalator Industry Association

LEIA Site Safety Handbook

This useful and comprehensive booklet is designed to be carried with you to site, so that you can quickly check whether you are working safely. It is still available from the LEIA office, price £4.00 plus p+p

Run Hide Tell



**IN THE RARE EVENT OF
a firearms or weapons attack**

RUN HIDE TELL



RUN to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go, then...

HIDE. It's better to hide than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Then finally and only when it is safe to do so...

TELL the police by calling 999.

RUN HIDE TELL



At the moment, the issue of terrorist attacks is regularly in the news. But it's been on our agenda for much longer.

The police and security service have been working constantly to foil terrorist attacks for years, not months.

But we are not complacent about keeping you safe.

Due to events in the UK and abroad, people are understandably concerned about a firearms or weapons attack. These attacks are very rare but in the event of such an attack, it helps to be prepared.

Remember, attacks of this nature are still very rare in the UK.

So Stay Safe, and just remember the words:

RUN. HIDE. TELL.

To watch the Stay Safe film, visit
www.npcc.police.uk/staysafe

Information is vital. If you see or hear something that could be terrorist related, trust your instincts and call the confidential Anti-Terrorist hotline on **0800 789 321**. Our specially trained officers will take it from there. Your call could save lives.

Always in an emergency, call 999.